

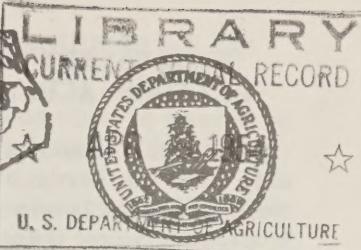
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



NO. 155

RALEIGH, N. C.

MARCH 25, 1954

## REDUCTION IN TOTAL CROP ACREAGE EXPECTED

Prospective planting reports from North Carolina farmers indicate a 3 percent net increase over last year in acreage to be utilized by the 10 crops included in a survey about March 1. These increases, however, would not fully offset the previously announced reduction of 26 percent in the acreage seeded to wheat last fall and the expected reduction in cotton acreage which will result from a 1954 acreage allotment, which is 20 percent below last year's seedings.

Acreages of all the major feed crops in 1954 are expected to be larger than last year. Seedings of oats and barley are estimated to have been increased 10 percent and 20 percent respectively to partially offset the reductions in seedings of wheat made in compliance with acreage allot-

(Continued on page 5)

## SLIGHT CORN ACREAGE INCREASE INTENDED

If North Carolina farmers carry out their March 1 intentions, they will plant 1 percent more corn acreage this year than last. The total of 2,201,000 acres of corn for all purposes indicated for 1954 would compare with 2,179,000 acres planted last year.

Increased acreage in prospect for the State as a whole is indicated despite the fact that allotments in certain eastern counties of commercial importance call for substantial reductions in those counties. Present indications are that increases in the non-allotment areas will more than offset reductions in commercial areas. A general increase in acreage is expected over the Piedmont area where production

(Continued on page 5)

## SMALL INCREASE IN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO INDICATED

Recent reports received from tobacco producers indicate that 688,000 acres of the flue-cured crop will be planted in North Carolina in 1954. A crop this size would be about 2 percent larger than the 674,000 acres harvested last year. Part of the expected increase over 1953 results from a slight increase in allotments, while part of it can be attributed to the fact that drought conditions curtailed the acreage to some extent in Piedmont areas last season. Thus, a normal acreage in Piedmont areas this year would reflect an increase substantially larger than the actual increase in allotments.

Acreages by types show 268,000 acres to be planted in the Old and Middle Belts this year as compared to 258,000 acres harvested last year, an increase of 4 percent; 334,000 acres to be planted in the Eastern Belt compared to 331,000 acres harvested in 1953, an increase of 1 percent; 86,000 acres to be planted in the Border Belt compared to 85,000 last year, also an increase of about 1 percent.

(Continued on page 5)

## RECORD SMALL PEANUT ACREAGE

Prospective 1954 plantings of peanuts alone for all purposes is indicated at 175,000 acres, 9,000 acres (or 5 percent) below the acreage for all purposes in 1953. Such a crop would be 111,000 acres below the 10-year (1943-52) average and the smallest planted acreage of record for the State. These intentions include peanuts for picking and threshing, for hogging off and for other purposes. The first estimate of the 1954 acreage of peanuts for picking and threshing will be made in August.

## STRAWBERRY ACREAGE DOWN LETTUCE ACREAGE UNCHANGED

**BEETS:** Reports from growers indicate that the acreage of beets planted in North Carolina totals 300 this year, about 7 percent more than the 280 acres harvested last year.

**CABBAGE (WEST):** Late-summer cabbage growers in North Carolina report their intentions to plant 4,800 acres this year. If these plans materialize, the 1954 planted acreage will be 2 percent more than the 4,700 acres harvested last year.

Intentions reports indicate that about 22,450 acres of cabbage will be planted this year in the late summer group of States. This is about 2 percent more than the acreage available for harvest in 1953 and about 1 percent less than average.

**LETTUCE:** Reports from lettuce growers indicate 1,600 acres have been planted for harvest this year. This is the same as last year's planted acreage, but approximately 7 percent more than the acreage harvested in 1953 and about 21 percent more than the 1949-52 average. Based on March 1 conditions, the yield is expected to average about 120 western crates per acre -- the same as last year's yield but 10 crates per acre above the 1949-52 average yield.

The total acreage for harvest in the five early Spring lettuce States for this season is placed at 44,500 acres, which is about 5 percent less than the acreage harvested in 1953 and 8 percent less than average.

Production in the early-Spring States is tentatively forecast at 7,101,000 crates, which is about 7 percent less than the production realized in 1953. Slightly lower yields are anticipated in California, the most important spring producing State.

In Arizona the crop is well advanced due to recent warm weather. Harvest in the Phoenix area began in late February, but movement has been light, with substantial volume expected during the last half of March. In California, the crop is generally in good condition, but stands in some of the earliest planted fields are spotty. Some lettuce will be available from this State in late March but no significant volume will move until harvest becomes active in the Salinas-Watsonville area in early April. In Georgia, harvest

may have been delayed due to freezing temperatures subsequent to the planting of the crop so no cutting is expected before April 1. In South Carolina, the lettuce crop was reported in very good condition as of March 1.

**STRAWBERRIES:** The strawberry acreage for harvest in North Carolina is currently estimated at 1,600 acres, 6 percent below the 1,700 acres harvested in 1953 and 37 percent less than the 1949-52 average of 2,550 acres.

March 1 reports from the mid-Spring States indicate 40,850 acres for harvest in 1954, 5 percent less than the acreage harvested in 1953 in those States and 31 percent below average.

**WATERMELONS:** As of March 1, North Carolina growers report they intend to plant an estimated 10,500 acres of watermelons this year. If these intentions are carried out, such an acreage would be 5 percent above last year's and 6 percent above the average of 9,880 acres.

Total prospective acreage in the early-Summer areas is estimated at 355,300 acres, 13 percent above the 1953 harvested acreage and 28 percent above average.

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*Despite seasonal gains, U. S. feed grain prices remain below a year earlier and generally below national average support prices.*

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*Wheat exports the first 7 months of 1953-54 totaled about 122 million bushels, compared with 190 million in the same period a year earlier.*

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*Stocks of old wheat in the U. S. on hand next July 1 when the marketing year ends probably will exceed 800 million. Most of it will be held by the CCC under the price support program.*

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*Consumption of cigarettes in 1953 fell a little below 1952, the first decline in several years. However, quantity of tobacco consumed probably held even since smokers used more "king size" cigarettes.*

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES  
WOOL PRODUCTION AND INCOME  
1952-1953

YEAR	SHEEP SHORN NO.	WT. PER FLEECE	PRODUC- TION SHORN WOOL	PRICE PER LB. 1/	CASH RECEIPT
	THOUS.	LBS.	THOUS. LBS.	CENTS	THOUS. DOL.
NORTH CAROLINA					
1952	40	5.5	220	53	117
1953 2/	42	5.7	239	52	124
UNITED STATES					
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373	54.2	125,889
1953 2/	27,756	8.30	230,343	54.7	126,109

1/ Average for marketing season April-March, including an allowance for loan wool.

2/ 1953 preliminary.

N. C. WOOL PRODUCTION UP

The 3 percent reduction in number of sheep on U. S. farms during 1953 probably means lower output of shorn wool this year. Pulled wool production also is likely to be down because fewer sheep and lambs are expected to be slaughtered than in 1953. World wool supplies for 1953-54 are about the same as in 1952-53.

Wool production in North Carolina increased 8.6 percent in 1953 over 1952 (see table on left). The increased production was accounted for by an increase in the number of sheep shorn and by an increase in the average weight per fleece. Wool production in the U. S. during 1953 was about one percent less than 1952.

NORTH CAROLINA 1953 CASH FARM RECEIPTS 6.2 PERCENT BELOW 1952

Cash receipts from farm marketings in North Carolina during 1953 totaled \$884,070,000 or 6.2 percent below cash farm receipts of \$942,169,000 during 1952.

The decrease of 58 million dollars in total cash farm receipts in 1953 was the result of cash receipts from the sale of crops decreasing \$64,729,000, while cash receipts from the sale of livestock and

livestock products increased \$6,630,000. Percentagewise, cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products accounted for 21.8 percent of all cash receipts in 1952 and for 23.9 percent in 1953. Livestock and livestock products cash receipts increased 3.0 percent in 1953 over 1952, while cash receipts from the sale of crops decreased 8.8 percent.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS, CALENDAR YEARS 1952 & 1953

STATE AND REGION	LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS		CROPS		TOTAL	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
			1,000 DOLLARS		1,000 DOLLARS	
N. Carolina...	205,006	211,636	737,163	672,434	942,169	884,070
S. Carolina...	88,266	87,703	295,996	284,703	384,262	372,406
Virginia.....	275,288	264,751	228,556	184,371	503,844	449,122
Georgia.....	253,343	254,028	391,966	375,199	645,309	629,227
Delaware.....	80,381	78,703	23,004	21,625	103,385	100,328
Maryland.....	179,874	177,034	81,235	88,567	261,109	265,601
W. Virginia...	106,223	98,354	26,600	27,802	132,823	126,156
Florida.....	129,496	123,261	365,715	405,545	495,211	528,806
S. ATLANTIC...	1,317,877	1,295,470	2,150,235	2,060,246	3,468,112	3,355,716
UNITED STATES.	18,354,094	17,178,338	14,019,317	13,796,582	32,373,411	30,974,920

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1954

CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA					UNITED STATES				
	AVERAGE 1943-1952		Acreage Planted			AVERAGE 1943-1952		Acreage Planted		
	Acreage Planted	Yield Per Planted Acre	1953	Indicated	1954	Unit of Yield	Average Planted	Yield Per Planted Acre	1953	Indicated
	(000)	Units	(000)	(000)	%		(000)	Units	(000)	%
Corn, all.....	2,247	27.6	2,179	2,201	101	Bu.	87	383	35.1	81,403
Oats 1/.....	475	22.4	556	612	110	Bu.	43	927	29.9	44,015
Barley 1/.....	48	21.8	52	62	120	Bu.	12	454	22.3	9,597
All Hay 2/.....	1,279	1.01	1,164	1,199	103	Ton	74	629	1.37	73,918
Sweetpotatoes.	56	106	45	40	89	Bu.	55	5	91.4	356.1
Potatoes 3/.....	69	134	46	40	87	Bu.	2	184.3	198.8	1,532.1
Tobacco 2/	269.2	1,104	258	268	104	Lbs.	370	8	1,121	359
Type 11.....	337.2	1,219	331	334	101	Lbs.	337	2	1,219	331
Type 12.....	83.2	1,190	85	86	101	Lbs.	204	2	1,199	207
Type 13.....	689.6	1,171	674	688	102	Lbs.	1,028	8	1,164	1,021.8
All Flue-cured.....	10.9	1,540	11.4	10.8	95	Lbs.	452	5	1,234	424.9
Type 31 (Burley)	700.5	1,176	685.4	698.8	102	Lbs.	1,716	8	1,183	1,638.1
All Tobacco.....	400	-	397	417	105	-	13	523	-	16,085
Soybeans 3/.....	286	-	184	175	95	-	3	425	-	1,884
Peanuts 3/.....	35	-	77	96	125	-	14	513	-	14,604
Sorghum, All Purpose.										18,664

1/ Includes acreage planted in preceding fall.

2/ Acreage harvested all alone for all purposes.

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## REDUCTION IN TOTAL CROP ACREAGE (Continued)

Acres. Acreage to be utilized for all hay will probably be increased by about 3 percent and this year's sorghum acreage promises to be one-fourth larger than in 1953. An increase of 1 percent in the State's corn acreage is indicated despite the reductions called for in commercial counties under the acreage allotment program.

The 1954 plantings of tobacco are expected to be about 2 percent larger than last year, reflecting some increase in acreage allotments. Growers also plan to increase soybean acreage by 5 percent.

The indicated acreages for 1954 are interpretations of reports from growers, and are based upon past relationships between such reports and acreages actually planted. The purpose of this report is to assist growers generally in making such further change in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. The acreages actually planted in 1954 may turn out larger or smaller than indicated by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, the Agricultural Program, and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' actions.

## FLUE-CURED TOBACCO (Continued)

For the United States, the total flue-cured acreage to be planted this year is estimated at 1,041,000 acres -- nearly 2 percent above the 1,022,000 acres harvested in 1953.

Burley producers in the State expressed intentions to plant about 10,800 acres of tobacco this year, or around 5 percent less than the 11,400 acres harvested in 1953. A cut in allotments is chiefly responsible for the expected decrease in acreage.

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## CORN ACREAGE (Continued)

of corn and other feed crops in 1953 was cut short by severe and extended drought. Also, many farmers with reduced cotton and peanut allotments plan to utilize part of their diverted acreage for the production of corn.

Indications point to total U. S. plantings of 81,037,000 acres, 0.4 percent less than the 81,403,000 acres planted in 1953 and 7.3 percent below the 10-year average of 87,383,000 acres. Acreage of corn U. S. farmers intended to plant this year is the smallest in the 26 years of which planted acreage data are available, according to their reports as of March 1.

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## RECORD U. S. SOYBEAN ACREAGE INDICATED

The 1954 prospective acreage of soybeans grown alone for all purposes in North Carolina is 417,000 acres or 5 percent more than the 397,000 planted in 1952.

The total U. S. acreage of soybeans planted alone for all purposes in 1954 will be at a record high if growers carry out their intentions as expressed on March 1. Indications point to 18,075,000 acres this year, 12 percent above the previous high of 16,085,000 acres planted in 1953.

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*U. S. acreage allotments for corn in the commercial area announced by the Secretary of Agriculture call for a 9.8 million acre, or 17 percent, reduction from acreage planted last year.*

## IRISH POTATO ACREAGE LOWEST SINCE 1921

Reports from Tar Heel farmers indicate intentions to plant a total of 40,000 acres of Irish Potatoes this year. This would be the smallest acreage for "all" Irish potatoes since 1921 when 38,000 acres were harvested. Compared to last year, the currently intended acreage is 13 percent less than the 46,000 acres harvested in 1953 and 58 percent less than the 1943-52 average of 69,000 acres.

The commercial early crop with an expected decrease of 4,500 acres (from 19,500 in 1953 to a prospective 15,000

*(Continue on page 6)*

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## SMALL GRAIN ACREAGE BELOW LAST YEAR

March 1 intentions reports from North Carolina farmers indicate a decrease of 4 percent in the planted acreage of oats, wheat, rye and barley. The planted small grain acreage totaled 1,167,000 acres last year and reports from growers indicate that 1,120,000 acres have been seeded for the 1954 crop.

The decrease in the acreage seeded to wheat more than off-set increased seedings of oats and barley. A total of 436,000 acres of wheat were seeded for the 1953 crop as compared with 323,000 acres seeded for 1954 -- a decrease of 26 percent.

Growers reports indicate that 612,000 acres of oats have been seeded for 1954. This is an increase of 10 percent over the 556,000 acres seeded for last year's crop. The acreage seeded to barley is indicated at 62,000 acres and compares with 52,000 acres last year. The indicated acreage seeded to rye at 123,000 acres is the same as last year.

The total U. S. acreage of oats, wheat, rye and barley planted for 1954 is indicated at 128,518,000 acres or 5.3 percent less than the 135,651,000 acres planted for 1953. The total U. S. oats acreage is indicated at 7.0 percent greater than last year; rye 22 percent increase over 1953; barley 47 percent over last year and all wheat 20 percent less than 1953. The decrease in wheat more than off-set increased acreages of other small grains.

## SMALLER SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE FOR 1954

North Carolina farmers report their intentions, as of March 1, to decrease their sweetpotato acreage 11 percent this year. If these intentions are carried out, approximately 40,000 acres will be planted compared with 45,000 last year and the 1943-52 average of 56,000 acres.

For the U. S., prospective acreage of sweetpotatoes is 357,000 acres - practically the same as the 356,000 acres planted in 1953 but 36 percent smaller than the 1943-52 average. Intended increases in New Jersey, California and the South Central region are nearly offset by reductions in the South Atlantic area.

In the South Atlantic region, prospective 1954 plantings are 5 percent less than in 1953. Reductions are indicated for North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Virginia shows no change from last year. Florida acreage is expected to be slightly larger than in 1953, largely because of a moderate expansion in commercial plantings. Prospective sweetpotato acreage in New Jersey and California is up moderately from last year.

## U. S. CHICK PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH

The number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in the U. S. during February was the largest of record for the month. Production during February totaled 190,983,000 chicks compared with 170,191,000 a year ago and the 1948-52 average of 146,187,000 chicks. The previous high hatch for the month was 190,390,000 chicks produced in February 1952. On the basis of the number of chicks placed in 14 principal broiler areas during February, the number of chicks hatched for broilers was up 7 percent from a year ago and the number of chicks placed for flock replacement was up 17 percent.

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 6,381,000 chicks during February - an increase of 1 percent over hatchings in February 1953 and almost 23 percent above the 5,199,000 average output.

## IRISH POTATO ACREAGE (Cont'd)

this year) has accounted for the major portion of the "all" potato decline.

For the U. S., growers' intentions to plant reports indicate total prospective 1954 potato acreage at 1,364,000 acres - 11 percent less than the 1953 planted acreage and 38 percent less than the 1943-52 average. If farmers' intentions materialize, plantings will be less than last year in all regions of the country, with the largest reductions occurring in the early States, where part of the crop has already been harvested. In the 29 late States, prospective plantings are 8 percent smaller than in 1953. For the 7 intermediate States, the outlook is for 12 percent less acreage than last year and in the early States, 23 percent less.

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## RECORD ALL SORGHUM ACREAGE INDICATED FOR 1954

Reports from North Carolina farmers, as of March 1 indicate that they intend to plant 96,000 acres of sorghums in 1954. This would be 19,000 acres (25 percent) more than the 1953 acreage and a new record high for the State. The major portion of the acreage in the State is devoted to sorghum for grain. Of the 77,000 acres of all sorghums harvested in 1953, there were 2,000 acres for sirup, 12,000 acres for forage, 4,000 for silage and 59,000 acres for grain.

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*The reduction in support prices for milk and butterfat from 90 percent to 75 percent of parity for the April 1954-March 1955 marketing year will result in generally lower prices.*

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*U. S. broiler chick placements have not declined, despite the slump in prices. Slaughter supplies of broilers will be large in March and April.*

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*U. S. soybean prices reached a high for the season in February. Exports so far in 1953-54 have been a record but appear to be tapering off.*

## FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

February, 1954 was a relatively mild month in North Carolina with temperatures averaging from 3 to 4 degrees above normal. And it was a dry month over the greater part of the State, with precipitation averaging well below normal over most of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

Most locations reported at least one thunderstorm during the month with some points in the mountain and Piedmont sections having 4 to 5. Newspapers carried the account of an early-Sunday (February 21st) tornado that swept through the Mt. Gilead - Candor Area.

On February 28th - March 1st, a snow storm resulted in a 4-inch snowfall in Asheville with amounts up to 18 inches reported at some points in the Smokies. In the northern Piedmont there was snow which melted as it fell on the 4th and 5th. Most localities had from 6-8 days with measurable precipitation, but most of the precipitation fell within a few hours on the 20th or 21st.

Heavy showers fell on practically all of the counties and 24-hour totals broke records at scattered Piedmont and mountain locations. The 3.30 inches that fell on Raleigh within a little more than 3 hours on the 21st made it the rainiest February day on record for the capital city. These heavy rains caused minor flash floods in some communities and caused streams to rise to near or above

flood stage at many points during the last week of the month. Despite these heavy rains, precipitation for the month ranged from near or above normal in the mountains to about 1½ inches below normal in the Piedmont and from 2 to 3 inches below in the Coastal Plain. The smallest reported monthly rainfall total was 0.14 at Manteo, over 3½ inches below normal.

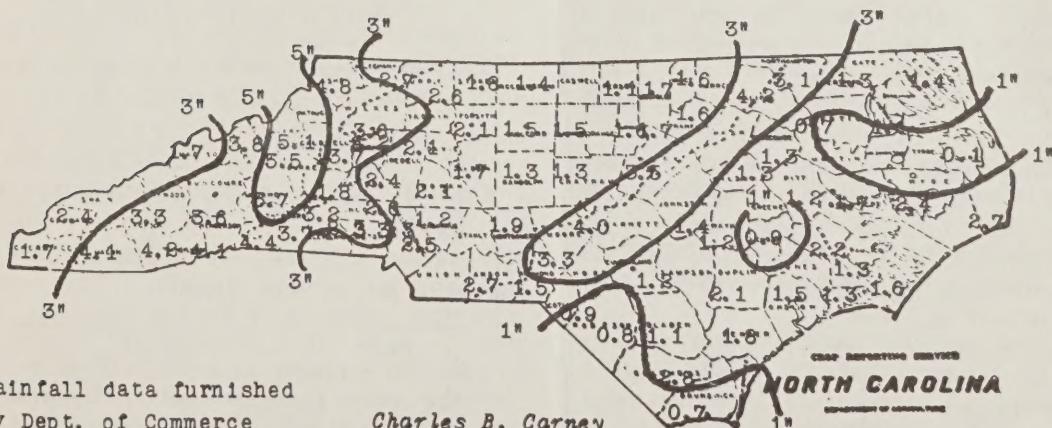
One of the warmest afternoons of the month was on the 15th; when most reporting stations had readings in the 70's; at several points high readings equalled or exceeded the highest temperatures of record. The following afternoon was almost as warm with most points outside the mountains in the 70's. The afternoon of 28th was warm, with temperatures in the 70's outside the mountains and near the 80-degree mark in the southeast. Among the lowest temperatures reported were five above zero at Boone on the 9th and 4 above at Yancey on the 8th.

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**Although U. S. farmers added about one million head of cattle and calves to their herds in 1953, the gain of only 1 percent during 1953 indicates that inventory of cattle and calves is leveling off.**

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### NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, FEBRUARY 1954



# FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

Agricultural Estimates Division

S. R. Newell, Director

and published by the

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FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

## RECORD FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk produced on North Carolina farms during February 1954 amounted to 126 million pounds. The decline of 6 percent from the 134 million pounds produced during January 1954 is due entirely to the shorter (28 day) month. The February production quoted above is the highest of record for the month. This record level of production was achieved as a result of increased output per cow and increased milk cow numbers. The monthly average production of 321 pounds per cow in herd is also the highest of record for the month of February and compares with an average of 310 pounds for February 1953, and 318 pound average for February 1952 (when February had 29 days).

The monthly average number of milk cows on farms for February is placed at 391,000 head - 1,000 above the preceding month and 13,000 head above the average for February of last year.

United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Raleigh, N. C.

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U. S. egg production in January con-  
tinued at a record breaking pace.

## EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production on North Carolina farms during February 1954 is placed at 124 million eggs. The average number of layers for the month is estimated at 8,773,000 -- 1 percent above the number on farms during February 1953. The average rate of lay during February 1954 was somewhat higher than a year earlier. This along with the increase in layers resulted in a net increase of approximately 6 percent in total egg production.

The above estimates of egg production include eggs produced for hatching as well as for sale and farm use.